

Feb 21, 2023

Greetings to the Co-chairs, Ranking & Distinguished Members of these Committees!

My name is Essence Divine and I'm a parent advocate for ConnCAN. I have been a lifelong resident of Waterbury and today I am testifying in support of House Bill 6663- An Act Establishing The English Language Learners' Bill of Rights.

I strongly believe that a parents' bill of rights for non-English speaking families is essential for the educational success of those students. When parents don't speak English, they often face significant barriers when it comes to communicating with their children's teachers and understanding their child's academic progress.

A parents' bill of rights can help to address these barriers by ensuring that parents have access to important information in a language they understand. This might include providing translated documents and interpreting services during parent-teacher conferences.

By providing parents with the tools they need to be involved in their child's education, we can help to ensure that these students receive the support they need to succeed. Non-English-speaking parents often have valuable insights into their child's needs and strengths, and by giving them a voice in the educational process, we can work together to create the best possible outcomes for these students.

In addition, a parents' bill of rights can also help to address issues related to cultural competency and sensitivity. When educators understand the unique needs and perspectives of non-English speaking families, they are better equipped to create inclusive learning environments that support the success of all students.

Overall, I believe that a parents' bill of rights for non-English speaking families is an important step towards ensuring that all students have access to quality education and the support they need to succeed.

I thank you for your time and I urge everyone to support this bill for the outcome of our diverse population will be the outcome for Connecticut in the future.